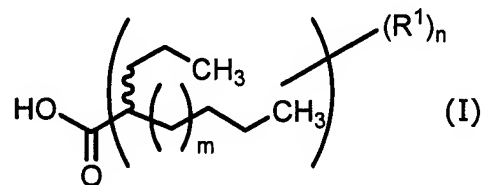


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A compound represented by formula (I):



wherein

R¹ represents ~~optionally protected~~ hydroxy or oxo,

~~~~~ indicates  $\alpha$ -configuration,  $\beta$ -configuration or a mixture of these in an ~~arbitrary~~ arbitrary proportion,

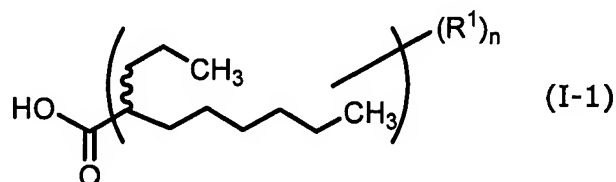
n represents an integer of 1 to 3, and

m represents ~~[[0 or]]~~ an integer of 1 to 10; and

wherein two or more R<sup>1</sup>'s are not bound to the same carbon atom other than the terminal carbon atom,

a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

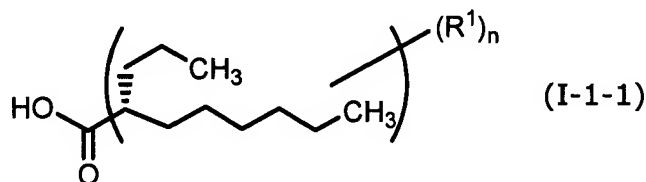
2. **(Original)** The compound according to claim 1, which is represented by formula (I-1):



wherein

all symbols have the same meanings as in claim 1.

3. **(Original)** The compound according to claim 1, which is represented by formula (I-1-1):

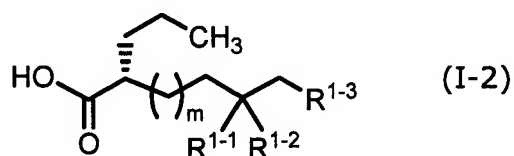


wherein

..... indicates  $\alpha$ -configuration, and

other symbols have the same meanings as in claim 1.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The compound according to claim 1, which is represented by formula (I-2):



wherein

$R^{1-1}$  and  $R^{1-2}$  are each independently a hydrogen atom or ~~optionally-protected~~ hydroxy, or

$R^{1-1}$  is taken together with  $R^{1-2}$  to represent oxo,

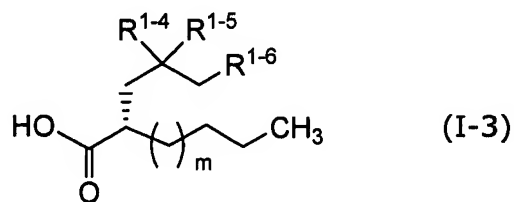
$R^{1-3}$  represents a hydrogen atom or ~~optionally-protected~~ hydroxy,

..... indicates  $\alpha$ -configuration, and

other symbols have the same meanings as in claim 1; and

wherein, when  $R^{1-1}$  is taken together with  $R^{1-2}$  to represent oxo,  $R^{1-3}$  represents a hydrogen atom.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The compound according to claim 1, which is represented by formula (I-3):



wherein

$R^{1-4}$  and  $R^{1-5}$  are each independently a hydrogen atom or ~~optionally-protected~~ hydroxy, or

$R^{1-4}$  is taken together with  $R^{1-5}$  to represent oxo,

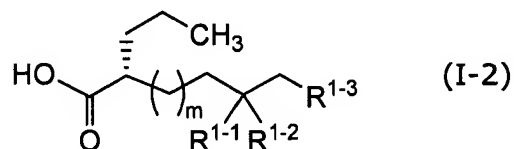
$R^{1-6}$  represents a hydrogen atom or ~~optionally-protected~~ hydroxy,

..... indicates  $\alpha$ -configuration, and

other symbols have the same meanings as in claim 1; and

wherein, when  $R^{1-4}$  is taken together with  $R^{1-5}$  to represent oxo,  $R^{1-6}$  represents a hydrogen atom.

6. **(Currently Amended)** A compound represented by formula (I-2):



wherein

$R^{1-1}$  and  $R^{1-2}$  are each independently a hydrogen atom or ~~optionally protected~~ hydroxy, or

$R^{1-1}$  is taken together with  $R^{1-2}$  to represent oxo,

$R^{1-3}$  represents a hydrogen atom or ~~optionally protected~~ hydroxy,

$m$  represents  $[[0 \text{ or}]]$  an integer of 1 to 10, and

..... indicates  $\alpha$ -configuration; and

wherein, when  $R^{1-1}$  is taken together with  $R^{1-2}$  to represent oxo,  $R^{1-3}$  represents a hydrogen atom,

a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

7. **(Original)** The compound according to claim 6, which is selected from the group consisting of (2R)-7-oxo-2-propyloctanoic acid, (2R,7R)-7-hydroxy-2-propyloctanoic acid, (2R,7S)-7-hydroxy-2-propyloctanoic acid and (2R)-8-hydroxy-2-propyloctanoic acid.

8. **(Original)** The compound according to claim 6, which is obtained by chemical synthesis.

9. **(Previously Presented)** A pharmaceutical composition, which comprises the compound represented by formula (I) depicted in claim 1, a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

10. **(Previously Presented)** A pharmaceutical composition, which comprises the compound represented by formula (I-2) depicted in claim 6, a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claims 11 to 18. **(Canceled)**

19. **(Original)** A method for preventing and/or treating a neurodegenerative disease, which comprises administering to a mammal an effective amount of the compound represented by formula (I) depicted in claim 1, a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.